

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of inhibiting melanin synthesis comprising contacting melanocytes with an amount of zinc alpha-2-glycoprotein (ZAG) sufficient to effect said inhibition.
2. A method of inhibiting melanin synthesis in a patient comprising administering to said patient an amount of ZAG sufficient to effect said inhibition.
3. The method according to claim 2 wherein ZAG is administered directly.
4. The method according to claim 2 wherein a nucleic acid sequence encoding ZAG is administered under conditions such that said sequence is expressed and ZAG is thereby produced.
5. The method according to claim 2 wherein ZAG is administered to the skin of said patient.
6. The method according to claim 2 wherein said patient suffers from increased or aberrant skin pigmentation.
7. The method according to claim 2 wherein ZAG is administered locally to the epidermis of said patient.

8. The method according to claim 2 wherein ZAG is administered systemically.

9. A composition comprising ZAG wherein said composition is in the form of a cream, gel or lotion.

10. A sterile composition comprising ZAG and a carrier.

11. A composition comprising ZAG in dosage unit form.